



MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

THIRD YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF EDUCATION ARTS

EEL 3351: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

DATE: APRIL 2024

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Juma your best friend has written a threatening letter to someone that has been intercepted by the DCI, and you are now a key witness. Explain the key features of Juma's idiolect in the letter that can help the police with their investigation (4 Marks)
- b) Using information from Sapir-Whorf theory, illustrate how one's language can affect their world view (4 Marks)
- c) Class may affect language, use two language variation types to explain this (4 Marks)
- d) Describe how power influences diglossic situations in countries where diglossia is present (4 Marks)
- e) Explain top to bottom language death and lungicide (4 Marks)
- f) Differentiate between accent and dialect (4 Marks)
- g) What is an isogloss? (2 Marks)
- h) Illustrate how situation, profession and attitude can affect communication (4 Marks)



MUST is ISO 9001:2015 and



ISO/IEC 27001:2013 CERTIFIED

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Language change is influenced by social status, gender and interaction. Discuss. (10 Marks)
- b) Describe the relationship between language maintenance and language shift (6 Marks)
- c) Discuss overt prestige and covert prestige (4 Marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Distinguish between corpus planning and status planning (10 Marks)
- b) Style shifting, code mixing and code switching deal with separate sociolinguistic features and should be considered separate concepts. Discuss (10 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe four data collection methods that you can use to collect sociolinguistic data (10 Marks)
- b) Explain how Noam Chomsky's theory on the nature of language impacts on sociolinguistics (10 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain what the government can do to prevent the Ogiek language from going extinct (10 Marks)
- b) Using your language of study in the class research assignment, describe 5 sociolinguistic features you discovered about the language. (10 Marks)

